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**PHOTOGRAPHIC
INTERPRETATION
REPORT**

**NATIONAL PHOTOGRAPHIC
INTERPRETATION CENTER**

**CHINESE ACTIVITY IN THE
PARACEL ISLANDS**

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CHINESE ACTIVITY IN THE PARACEL ISLANDS**ABSTRACT**

1. This report describes the increase in electronic, ground, and naval activity in the Paracel Islands in the South China Sea [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] The report includes a map and four annotated photographs.

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INTRODUCTION

2. The Paracel Islands (Figure 1) comprise the Amphitrite Island and Crescent Island groups. Woody, Rocky, West Sand, Tree, Lincoln, and three unnamed islands form the Amphitrite Island group. Pattle, Robert, Money, Drummond, and Duncan Islands make up the Crescent Island group. New ground forces activity was observed on Lincoln, Pattle, Robert, Money, Drummond, and Duncan Islands during the period covered by this report. In addition, there was increased deployment of naval forces throughout the Paracel Island area.

BASIC DESCRIPTION

3. Woody Island [REDACTED] was observed on photography [REDACTED] (Figure 2). It is approximately 160 nautical miles (nm) southeast of Hainan Island and 150 nm east of South Vietnam at 16-50-00N 112-20-00E. The People's Republic of China has been engaged in an accelerated construction program on the island since early 1971. Facilities on the island include a small harbor area [REDACTED] one ROCK CAKE/STONE CAKE radar, and approximately 130 buildings including: quarters, storage buildings, support buildings, administration buildings, a large auditorium, vehicle sheds, and messhalls. In addition, several basketball courts, a construction support area, a drilling area with one drilling rig, and approximately 56 vertical and three horizontal storage tanks are present. Among the naval combatants identified within the harbor at Woody Island (Figure 3) were: one HAINAN large submarine chaser (PC), five probable HU-CHWAN hydrofoil motor torpedo boats (PTH), one possible HU-CHWAN PTH, four SHANGHAI II motor gunboats (PGM), one light cargo ship (AKL), and five small craft. Four other possible HU-CHWAN PTH were observed in the vicinity of Woody Island. In addition, two probable R-class submarines (R-SS) were identified in the vicinity of Woody Island [REDACTED]

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4. Rocky Island, [REDACTED] is at 16-51-00N 112-20-30E, approximately 2,600 feet northeast of Woody Island. Facilities on Rocky Island consist of one probable CROSS SLOT radar, eight vertical storage tanks, and four storage/support buildings. Two pipelines connect Rocky Island to Woody Island.

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5. Lincoln Island [REDACTED] at 16-40-30N 112-43-30E, was observed on [REDACTED] It is approximately 175 nm southeast of Hainan Island and 25 nm southeast of Woody Island. Facilities on the island consist of one tower, three vertical storage tanks, at least ten storage/support buildings, six tents, and a probable lighthouse.

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6. Tree Island is at 16-57-00N 112-19-00E, approximately 10 nm north-northwest of Woody Island. [REDACTED] one probable drilling rig was observed on the southwest coast.

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7. The islands of the Crescent Group [REDACTED] Pattle Island, at 16-31-58N 111-36-23E, is approximately 160 nm south-southeast of Hainan Island and 46 nm southwest of Woody Island. Facilities on the island (Figure 5) consist of at least 200 tents, eight buildings, one probable SLOT REST radar, one probable communications antenna, eight trucks, and one van. Newly identified construction consists of a possible underground bunker, excavations for buildings and possible fortifications, a POL storage tank, a berthing area, an access channel with turn-around area, and a small pier. Naval identifications in the vicinity of Pattle Island included one KIANGNAN destroyer escort (DE), one auxiliary minesweeper (MSA), eight mechanized landing craft (LCM), one possible LEN-HAI surveying ship (AGS), three AKL, and numerous small craft.

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8. Robert Island is approximately 2 nm southwest of Pattle at 16-30-00N 111-35-20E. Facilities observed on the island include 32 tents and one possible tower.

9. At Money Island, 8 nm southwest of Pattle at 16-26-40N 111-30-50E, observations included a dredged channel, at least 77 tents, six buildings, four large buildings under construction, and a possible tower. In addition, the following vessels were identified within the vicinity of Money Island: two LCM, six small craft, three small lighters, and one cargo ship that was being off-loaded.

10. Drummond Island is 9 nm southeast of Pattle at 16-27-30N 111-44-45E. Facilities observed on the island consist of at least 13 tents and some unidentified ground clearing activity. Near the island were one KIANGNAN DE and seven SHANGHAI II PGM.

11. Observations on Duncan Island, which is approximately 8 nm south-southeast of Pattle at 16-27-00N 111-43-00E, included 26 tents and two small buildings.

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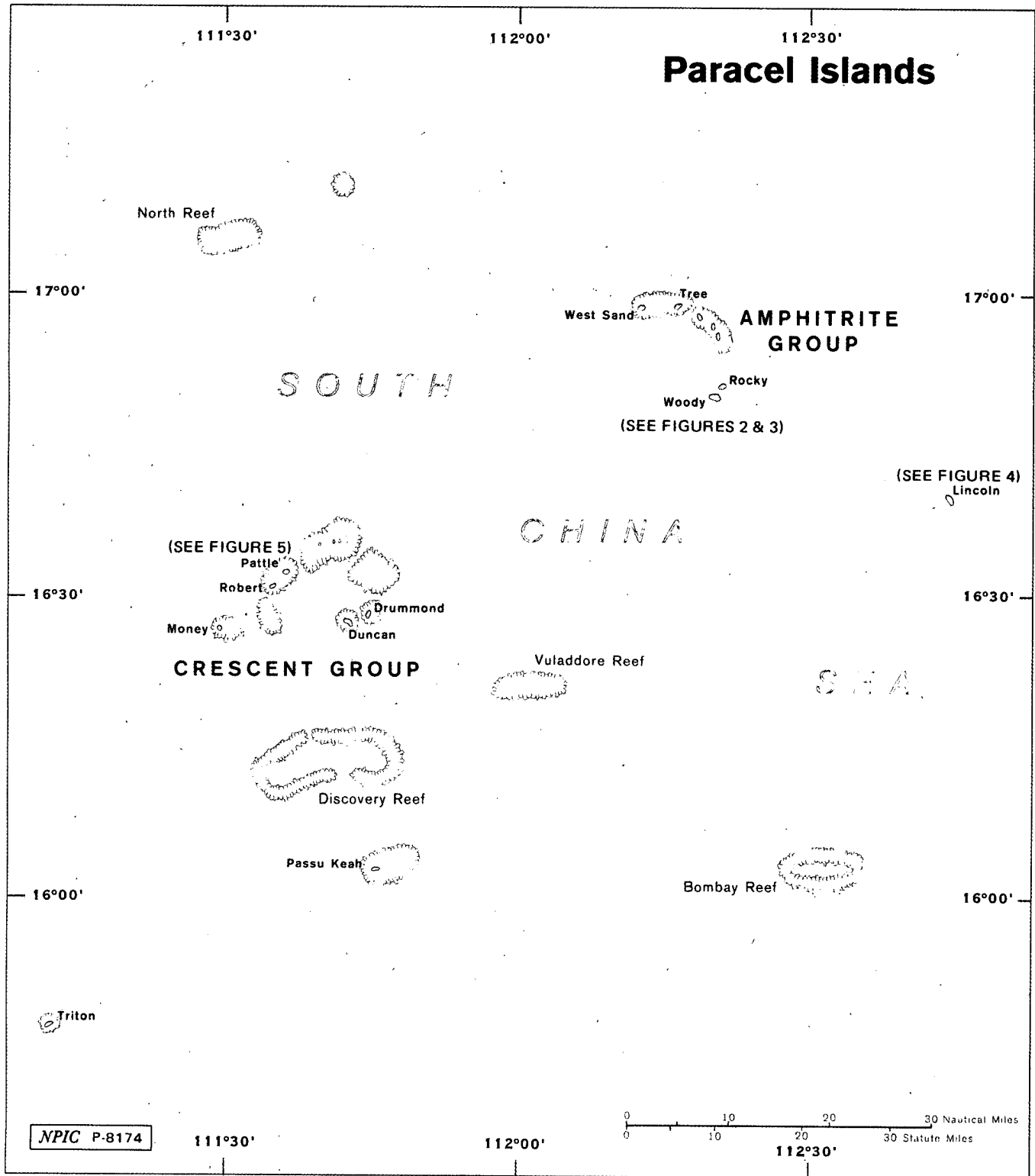


FIGURE 1. LOCATION MAP OF PARACEL ISLANDS

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12. Small weapons positions and/or personnel trenches were present on all islands observed.

REFERENCES

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